

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01249 212102Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /042 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 50

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1249

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, US, CU, DR
SUBJECT: U.S. - CUBAN RELATIONS

REF: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS: ISSUE NO. 11, MARCH 16, 1977,
ITEM 5

1. EMBASSY NOTES IN REF DOCUMENT THAT DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED
BASEBALL COMMISSIONER KUHN'S PROPOSAL FOR A U.S. ALL-STAR TEAM
TO TRAVEL TO CUBA FOR A SERIES OF GAMES AND THAT THE PROPOSAL
SEEMS TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED TECHNICAL AND TIMING PROBLEMS IN
CUBA. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER, IF AND WHEN
TECHNICAL AND TIMING DIFFICULTIES IN CUBA ARE OVERCOME, HAVING
ALL-STAR TEAM INCLUDE A STOP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN ITS
ITINERARY EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE VISIT TO CUBA.

2. AS DEPT AWARE, EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN FOSTERING
U.S.-DOMINICAN GOOD WILL THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF MUTUAL INTEREST
IN BASEBALL. THIS PAST WEEKEND FOR FIRST TIME IN DOMINICAN
HISTORY, TWO U.S. MAJOR LEAGUE CLUBS (L.A. DODGERS AND N.Y.
METS) PLAYED IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - ONE GAME IN SANTIAGO AND
ANOTHER IN SANTO DOMINGO - TO CAPACITY CROWDS. IN ADDITION,
THROUGH EMBASSY COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF BOWIE
KUHN, SIX MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS ARE CURRENTLY HOSTING A TOTAL
OF TWENTY-ONE DOMINICANS, MOSTLY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM POOR
NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY, FOR THREE OR
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FOUR DAYS DURING SPRING TRAINING IN FLORIDA.

3. IN ADDITION TO ASSITING OUR BASEBALL EFFORTS, ADDING
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO ALL-STAR ITINERARY MAY SERVE U.S.
INTERESTS BY DILUTING THE IMPACT UPON U.S. AND HISPHERIC
OPINION THAT A TRIP WHICH INCLUDED ONLY CUBA WOULD HAVE.
WHETHER A "HALFWAY" STOP TOWARD NORMALIZING OUR RELATIONS

WITH CUBA, SUCH AS WE SUGGEST, WOULD BETTER SERVE OUR
INTERESTS CAN OF COURSE BEST BE JUDGED IN WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

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